A Three Weeks' Journey with an Army Train.

PLENTY OF MUSKETOES.

Conspiracy to Capture the Paymaster's Money Safe.

RATTLESNAKE

How a Soldier Conquered an Unbroken Steed.

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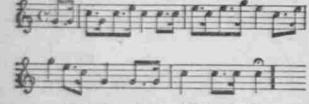


understood to be 19 years ago was that section of country west of the Missouri River, comprising almost the entire State of Kansas, a portion of Colorado, the great distributing | went out one tent seemed point for troops and military supplies of all kinds. It was here that in May, 1867, a large expedition was fitted

out to cross the plains to New Mexico. To the traveler rushing through Kansas to-day in the comfortable and safe railway cars, it is difficult to explain the experiences of crossing these prairies in "Indian times," before the railroad

The expedition which left Fort Leavenworth May, 1867, consisted of about 300 cavalry recruits, 20 Regular cavalrymen, a dozen or more officers, their families, a half dozen non-commissioned staff officers, and about 200 civilians, teamsters, etc. One hundred and twenty-five wagons and ambulances comprised the train, and there was also a herd of about 500 horses and mules for distribution at the posts in New-Mexico, beside those in use by the soldiers and the train. This was considered a strong expedition, and an important one in those days. The present Paymaster-General, then Maj. Rochester, accompanied the expedition, and he

spect of every officer and man.



THE ASSEMBLY-"FALL IN."

The march was to be a long one-10 or 12 ALL THE ADVANTAGE,

and were well armed, well mounted, brave and intelligent, and outnumbered us many times

etc.; old guard of yesterday, rear-guard.

picked men, old soldiers, who acted as flankers | fancied they had endured, wrongs and humiliaand scouts to protect the expedition from sur- tions which made them desperate. In no prises. The wagous moved in single or double | other army—certainly not in the English, Gerfile as the nature of the roads or the

PEOBABILITIES OF ATTACK

suggested. The train was under the immediate control of wagonmasters, and the drivers were instructed to halt and form in position to resist attack at a moment's notice. The movement was to be executed in the following manner: An attack threatening, the flankers were slowly to join the main column, the advance-guard | On one occasion, where the river banks were halting at once. The wagons, when moving in very steep, the wagons and cavalry marching double column, halted in this order; first two leading wagons came together, mules unhitched and tied to wagon-wheels; numbers three and four right and left of these, their mules driven to the inner side of wagons one and two; wagons five and six right and left of these, their mules driven to the inner sides of wagons three and four, and so on until the whole command was in position to resist attack. The ambulances, soldiers, horses, etc., would thus be entirely inclosed, and the wagons, loaded with camp equipage and stores, would make a very fair fortress. The soldiers could fight from under the wagons, keeping up a fire that would

INDIAN ATTACK a very dangerous undertaking. In Indian fighting one man holds four horses and the other three act as skirmishers. The signal of "danger," which is made by riding round in a circle, means also the enemy is in dangerous proximity; collect together as soon as possible. Thus a flanker way off on the right could agnal the advance-guard, and the Officer of the for the threatened attack.

In this manner, and always on the alert, we marched through Kansas. Reveille sounded early in the morning, sometimes when in very of officers gathered on the bank above, dangerous places, long before daylight, and camp was usually formed about 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon. After the site for the camp had been carefully selected, the wagons would move into position, forming three sides of a if on the open prairie, in single of double row secure camp, or if threatened, were tied to the long ropes between the camps, which were fastened to posts armly planted in the ground. The hospital and guard-tents were the earliest raised, and when the whole camp was in order it was indeed a pretty sight to see. By sunthen one might hear a banjo or guitar, or some voices singing songs of home, as the soldiers gathered round their campfires and smoked or were usually cool, and how pleasant camp

Musketos were plentiful as Summer ad- lumps of sugar for a reward.

what restless. The nettings we have in the cook. Our horses were States to protect us were not amongst our supplies on the march. It was discovered, howfumes of burnt sugar and chlorate of potash mixed; so from our hospital supplies we made up a lot of our "anti-musketo remedy." We burnt this on boards or tin just after getting into bed, and it is hard to say what the musketo thought of it, but we suffered severely, and out of respect for our endurance of the strangling fumes we ought to have been spared



the irritating bites. But the musketo of Kanand the Indian Terri- side until the fumes had pretty well disappear. | waiting for my horse to finish his drink, when tory. If we open the ed and we were fast asleep; then he walked in he suddenly stooped, bending his forelegs in They had been following us for days, and an geographical atlas at | for his dinner. In the course of these experi- | such a manner that I slipped directly over his | attack at daybreak the next morning was acmap of Kausas we will ments with chlorate of potash and sugar we head into the water amongst the horses. It cordingly prepared for. Strong pickets were find in the eastern part | discovered that in burning it made a bright | created quite a disturbance, and off scampered | posted on our right, center and left. No herd of the State the still light. Taps is the signal to "extinguish my steed with a merry twinkle in his eye, important military post | lights," and this we were very particular to do; | of Fort Leavenworth. but one night while taps was sounding we lit Before the railroads our diabolical mixture. The Sergeant of the brought to the hospital tent who had been west of the Missouri Guard, walking about in the silent streets of kicked by a horse. The poor fellow suffered Towards evening the guard had lost several were built this fort was the camp, noticed that while all other lights great agony, and received little relief from the members by soldiers reporting sick, and the

> BRILLIANTLY ILLUMINATED. We heard his voice "lights out," and still the fire kept on. Our heads were covered in our blankets, unable to endure the suffocating fumes. On came the Sergeant, angry at our inattention. He pushed his head into the tent,

let it happen again, he marched off. Reveille rudely woke us from our slumbers every morning; but sometimes, when we had gone to rest some pleasant Summer evening with tent-sides looped up, and not anticipating a storm, a furious gale would strike us, down would go our lines of tents, and, suddenly aroused and drenched with rain, we would try to find our clothing and restore order in camp. It happened at Fort Zara, I believe, that we changed our camp twice. The river rising in New Mexico a large sum of money-several | rapidly and flooding the country in every dihundreds of thousands of dollars, as the men | rection, we were forced very hastily to move believed; but at any rate a considerable sum. to higher ground. This first move was accom-Later we shall have something to tell about | plished only after considerable effort in packing and hitching up; but when later the river again The command of this expedition was in- attacked us it seemed as if we must lose everytrusted to Maj. Whiting, an experienced officer, | thing. Everyone took hold and worked hard and one who had a good reputation as an Indian | to save the wagons, camp equipage and supplies. fighter. He proved himself a thorough soldier It was desperate work, and although the men before the expedition was broken up, and when struggled faithfully, several wagons became so the difficulties and dangers of that long march, firmly imbedded in the mud that it was necesthrough what was then a wilderness, are taken sary to abandon them altogether, and much into account, he deserved the support and re- | flour and other supplies were destroyed by the water. The whole command, ladies and all, were well drenched before we found a safe

> camp again. The commanding officer generously ordered that a case of whisky be distributed to the men, and the efforts of many a gallant soldier to obtain two drinks instead of one by hook or by musician at the head of the grave. As the solcrook were laughable in the extreme. "I've seen your face before; I've given you a drink and all are impressed by the solemnity of the lately," I said to some. "Oh, no; it was my

brother or a friend," was the answer. At daylight we learned that two men had weeks-and through a desert land not only been drowned in the river, but some said their difficult for traveling, but swarming with hos- bodies had not been found, and the report tile Indians, determined, if possible, to anni- merely covered their desertion. Desertions hilate all the whites west of the Missouri. were common enough after that. Men went Each mile bad to be traversed with the com- off in squads with horses, arms and provisions, mand ready for action to repel Indian attacks, deserting directly in the midst of the Indians; and each camp had to resemble, as nearly as many of them losing their lives to escape the possible, a garrison besieged. The enemy had slavery of a soldier's life. Some of the recruits

PROFESSIONAL HORSE-THIEVES,

The following was the order of march as to the plains, where they knew expeditions and covered with molasses was highly prized well as I can remember it: The new guard of were constantly crossing, and opportunities for by the hungry travelers. Often by the evento-day, the advance-guard; one company of horse stealing and desertion frequent. One ing campfire the cooks would prepare great cavalry recruits; ambulance containing offi- night almost the entire guard deserted, in- piles of flapjacks, and it was fun to watch them cers' families; wagons containing soldiers' cluding non-commissioned officers. These men | throw the cake high in the air as they turned families; wagons containing camp equipments; carried off the company records, besides taking | it, and catch it as it fell. As long as sugar and horses led and guarded by soldiers (these horses extra horses, arms, ammunition and rations. sirup lasted, these were famous treats. They were tied to a long rope at regular intervals); The risk they assumed of capture by Govern- | would seem rather indigestible to those who second company of cavalry; wagens containing ment officials was small indeed; but outside live in civilization, but hunger is a good sauce, supplies; another section of horses; third com- | waited the Indians, who very much desired pany of cavalry; extra wagons; camp followers, | their ill-gotten plunder. Undoubtedly many | of these deserters were malcontents, who hated On the right flank, well in advance, rode 20 | the army discipline, and who had endured, or man or French-are the enlisted men so unhappy as they are in ours. Our soldiers are well paid and well fed, but it is surprising to witness the great gulf existing between the officers and the soldiers of the United States Army.

The rivers and streams we were obliged to ford, there being neither bridges or ferryboats, and it often happened that fording was attended with great difficulty and even danger.



"SNAKES!"

WATCHING THE CROSSING, and seemed to enjoy the comical struggle of horses and men striving to make the ascent without falling. My horse enjoyed the name of "Billy," probably the commonest name for square if on the river bank, or a perfect square army horses. He was a fine, large, deep bay, carefully selected by an old soldier from amongst a of wagons. The horses were herded, if in a herd of horses at Fort Riley, which had been recently purchased in Missouri, the great supply depot for the United States Army. Billy was my special pet, and on him I showered my affection and all the dainties my slender purse could procure. Our turn had come to make the ascent. I looked at Billy and his clean, down the camp was silent, except that now and | well-groomed sides; at myself and my gorgeous scarlet stripes (the old style of stripes for Hospital Stewards), and, considering the adventold stories until after tattoo. The nights down the bank covered with mud, I felt that seemed after the long, hot and dusty ride of the Billy was quick, steady and intelligent, and so we hopefully descended the bank, crossed the river, and as we stepped out of the water I and beds became more luxurious. First we patted my horse, spoke to him, and then giving dose of whisky given him. He was put to bed threw down our rubber ponchos, then a blanket | him a little touch with the spur, we started up | folded twice, or oftener, for a mattress. If we the difficult ascent. Up, up, went Billy, had no pillow, a folded overcoat over a pair of plunging and rocking, and we had nearly boots made an excellent substitute. Another reached the top, when down he came well on one blanket over us completed the bed. Taps, the | side, covering my boot and leg with mud, and I | last call, bade us rest in peace to wait for to- thought it was all over; but a gallant spring morrow's reveille. Soldiers, like other boys, gave him his legs again, and in a second more are apt to be frolicsome at bedtime, and many | we stood secure upon the bank above. A kind

BEING STOLEN

so rapidly that I had my horse picketed close doors, and is a very simple process, bread being baked in dutch-ovens-iron pots with heavy iron covers, placed in the bed of coals and completely covered over by them. Usually we giving one some chance at defense. had hard wood for fires, but in some very desert places the dried dung of the buffalo, called "buffalo chips," was used. This dung was found all over the plains of Kansas years ago, but has pretty much disappeared now. The cook had taken the mess chest outside his tent, and while making the bread left the flour-bag open. I was dozing in my tent, when I heard a yell and angry imprecations and a clatter of hoofs. Springing up I saw the cook chasing my Billy away, and my horse's head was a sight to behold, for in his playful, inquisitive way, he had plunged his nose deep into the flour-bag; his mouth and nostrils were filled with flour, and his whole face was covered with it to his eyes. Off scampered Billy, seemingly delighted with the new discovery, while his poor master paid the value of one bag of flour to the mess. I could never understand why Billy's sweet face should harm the flour, even if he did put his

nose in it. Billy never appreciated my goodness, for he served me a mean trick not many days afterward. We came into camp on a very windy afternoon, and the hospital attendants had all they could do to get up the large hospital tent. 'Water call" had sounded and Billy was thirsty, so I undertook to take him to water without saddle or bridle. We reached the place at last, where many horses were drinking, sas is a very intelligent bird, and waited out- and I rode in among them. I was quietly leaving me to walk home, wet and muddy.

and no music sounded the usual soldier's dead march, but,

WRAPPED IN THE BLANKETS

and taking a deep breath in his haste to scold | in which he died, he was lowered into the earth us, beat a hasty retreat, nearly strangled by to wait the trumpet call of the last day. His the fumes of our burning medicine. "What grave is unmarked. It is customary in the does this mean?" he managed to call out, his army to bury soldiers with military honors. eyes suffused and then fully aroused to anger. All the officers of the garrison and all the We answered him from under the blankets as | soldiers except the guards are present in full the last of the flame died away, "The mus- dress. The Chaplain, in his white robes, marches ketoes are very bad and we have burned a | with the military procession, the music playing little sugar to frighten them away, but it did | the dead march. Arrived at the grave the burial not go out at taps." With an admonition not to | service is read, and then three volleys fired over



the coffin after it has been lowered into the grave. The last and most touching scene is the sounding of "taps," the "last call," by a emn notes sound out, all is hushed and still, scene. The burial ceremonies over, the command returns to the post with the music playing a lively tune, often "John Brown's Body," or something equally gay. Such is a soldier's life in peace, but in war and upon hurried marches, ceremonies even at the grave are dis-

Rations when the command started were plenty; besides the generous allowance furnished by our indulgent "Uncle Samuel," we enjoyed butter, milk, white sugar, and even the chief dainty dish of soldiers, pie. But as we journeyed westward luxuries disappeared, and simple, very simple, army rations were all we and had enlisted at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., going | had left. A famous dish, consisting of soaked East for the purpose of being returned again army biscuit, called hardtack, fried in grease as many of readers will find out some day, if they have not already discovered it.

Before the day began to break, often as early as 3 o'clock in the morning, THE REVEILLE

would call us from our slumbers. The campfires lighted up the scene again; a sudden striking of tents, as if by magic, and a systewe can see that the Indians have taken possession and are searching for what we have left behind us, and warming themselves where we were only a few moments ago. Day dawned when we had already traveled some distance and our camp had long since been out of sight and in possession of the enemy.

We crossed the Arkansas River July 4, and celebrated the day after crossing by some extras at dinner, a grand bonfire and some homemade freworks in the evening.

Our marches were not always made near cool springs, and often we marched from water to water carrying what we could in our canteens; but this supply soon became warm and unfit for use, and considerable suffering would result. Sometimes as we approache water holes, or buffalo wallows, filled with water, the dogs would plunge in before we could unsling our canteens. We found the ARKANSAS RIVER WATER,

when encamped on that stream, red with mud and quite uninviting in appearance, but after | worth a large sum of money to take with him | entered a charming valley and were soon within | regard to the matter to which I have herein dipping out a pailful and letting it stand a few to Santa Fe, N. M., for the payment of the the Reservation. minutes the sediment would settle and the water become clear and delicious to drink.

Our march was ended; its trials and its you would give expression to those views; for pleasures, its dangers and its adventures. For Day, always with or near the advance guard, through the water and ascending the opposite The daily march was not a long one, averaging reporting to the commanding officer, in a few bank had made it very slippery. When the only 15 to 18 miles, but with slow pace, three minutes the whole train would be in position | rear-guard arrived the crossing looked very | miles an hour or less, and many halts and obuninviting, and upon attempting to ascend the stacles before us to overcome, like broken opposite bank, horses and riders slipped down | roads and fords to cross. Cavalry proceeds with the bank nearly to the water's edge. A group no greater speed than infantry, when encumbered with heavy trains, and three miles an hour was considered a fair average across the plains. Sometimes our march covered only 10 miles, and again we made a long journey. It depended very much upon the supply of wood,

water and grass. It was easy enough to find rattlesnakes, if one wished, near camp, or a little way on either side of the marching column. The plains were full of them then, and they were much dreaded in camp, where they often appeared, sometimes startling the cooks near the morning campfire, or even crawling beside the sleeping soldier wrapped in his blanket in his tent. We found one in our tent one morning, and you can imagine our fright. The snake paid for his intrusion with his life, however, but that was poor comfort to us. One afternoon, after making camp, a friend of mine went out for a walk but a little way from the hospital tent. He had removed his riding boots and wore a light pair of slippers. In climbing a little rising ground a rattlesnake bit him on the instep. The wound was sucked upon his reaching in the ambulance and never experienced any further trouble from the wound. The whisky was supposed to have cured him. He was a brave fellow, not easily frightened, for after being bitten he sat down, and, taking careful aim with his pistol, shot the snake

THROUGH THE HEAD vanced, and they made alumbers, which in | Billy distinguished himself again, much to emptied its poison bag shortly before he bit | plans were suspected and extra precautions | gave it away.

ing the wound. I used to take a cavalry saber | diers, made and ride just a little way from the line and cut ever, that our hungry little pest hated the by the hospital tent. Camp cooking is done out of the heads of the snakes from horseback. I would then cut off the rattles and send them home in letters as curiosities. The rattlesnake sounds a loud alarm before he strikes, usually

> It was not permitted for any member of the train to loiter behind or to separate from the command, except by special permission of the commanding officer. One hot day we passed a little clump of trees, and a friend suggested a short halt and rest. We dismounted and tied our horses. Sitting down and leaning against the trunk of a tree, we were soon fast asleep. At last awakening, what was our astonishment to find ourselves alone, without a living soul in sight and nothing of the train in the distance. We noticed by the sun that we must have rested some time, and with a few hasty words we were in the saddle galloping in the direction of the train as fast as we could go. We were in the enemy's country, and to have awakened in the presence of a party of Sioux Indians would have been a rough termination for our peaceful nap, with a terrible ending, no doubt. Death is always preferable to capture by Indians, for horrible torture is as sure as the death, which must come, when the poor prisoner's body is unable to offer more fun for the cruel captors. It was very much like a narrow escape, and we were glad to meet our comrades again and say no more about it.

We took all the precautions possible against an attack by Indians, and at one place a severe battle with them seemed inevitable. This was at a ford called the Cimmarron Crossing. Here the savages were in

STRONG FORCE.

went out that night, but all animals were securely tied to wagons to prevent the Indians While in camp one evening a soldier was stampeding them. The whole command slept on their arms, ready for immediate action. Surgeon. While on the march next day he died | writer obtained permission to go out on picket. in the ambulance. At night we reached a | The picket on the right was the station given lonely frontier post, and a detail was sent to him. It consisted of three men and a nonbury him. No officer attended the funeral, commissioned officer. We spread down our alarm as we retreated.

Slowly the night passed away. Our attention was divided between watching for Indians and defending ourselves against swarms of murderous musketoes. It was shortly after midnight that the Sergeant detected one or two figures approaching us from the direction of the Indians. We had only a little while before noticed some signals made by the Indians by means of brands attached, shot into the air at regular inevent-an Indian attack by night. Our Sergeant roused us all, and with carbines at ready we waited their approach, intending to abandon our blankets and basten back to camp and give treat, for the figures were getting within range. We intended to give them a warm reception before we left from our good Sharp's carbines. Just as we were about to feel sure the enemy was indeed upon us, came the response in the night air, "Officer of the Day; grand rounds." How that little message thrilled us. Although it brought friends instead of foes, it seemed as if there must be some mistake, so certain were we of attack and danger. Our officer carried no lantern; had one attendant with him, and in the darkness had gotten beyond our station, and only found us after considerable difficulty. FIRST CHALLENGE

was unheard, and our second, by reason of the alone. Indians rarely desire to fight, but are and the always ready for stealing. As the weather grew warmer the marching

toward noon was attended with considerable fatigue, and there were many cases of sunstroke. One day several fell off their horses, and the medical department had plenty to do. Near the hospital tent the two ambulances

were always located in camp. The driver of one of these vehicles had made himself somewhat unpopular with the young Hospital Stewards who were with the expedition. It was decided one night to discipline him. It was a night when, by reason of our proximity to the Indians, the mules, instead of being out on herd, were tied to the tongue of the ambulances. Our disagreeable driver had his team nearest our tent, and he himself was fast asleep, dreaming perchance of the money he would make by selling stolen corn at the next settlement. We went out carefully and collected a dozen or more empty tin cans-plentiful enough after any meal on the plains; these we brought to our tent. The mules were quiet and all the camp was still. Suddenly there was a great commotion, the mules sprang up and tugged at their chains, making a great noise and thoroughly disturbing and enraging our ambulance driver, who, springing out, with kicks and imprecations punished them for disturbing his slumbers. We tried the trick again later on with the same result, but the third time we were discovered. Either our victim suspected matic stowing away in the great wagons; then | foul play or the rattle of the cans had attracted came a hurried breakfast of coffee, hardtack | his attention, and with angry strides he came and bacon around the campfires, and then to our tent door. "Look out for me, young sounded "boots and saddles," and the command | fellows; if you do that again I will report you had started on another march. The old guard | to the Officer of the Day." Jeers greeted his of yesterday closes up the rear. As we pass | departure, and we went to rest to concoct new out into the road and our campfires fade away, | trials for his patience. The "Old Man," as we called him, had been cheating his mules of

> THEIR CORN SUPPLY, and was trying to save a bag or two to sell when a good chance presented itself. A friend of mine decided to join me in taking some of his plunder. The corn ration for our horses was exhausted, and for several days we had nothing to give them except the grass of the prairies. So when we discovered the well-filled bags of the driver, we determined to take some of Uncle Sam's corn to support and strengthen Uncle Sam's horses. It certainly could not be considered stealing. With a basket and a towel placed so as to deaden any noise, we tapped his pags night after night for the benefit of our Government horses. He found us out at last, and although he hated us well for it, could not risk reporting us without disclosing his own dishonesty. The good condition of our horses attracted the attention of several, but we never explained where our corn came from.



decided to remove the money from the safe and | Co. F, 6th Vt., Proctorsville, Vt. hide it in a strong wooden box, which was placed. when filled, in the bottom of the Major's messchest. The small empty safe was placed in the turbance or mutiny, and intended to murder he expressed it, and paid his brother 10 cents life. The pad is also printed in colors, with a any who should oppose them in carrying off the to be baptized in his place, which was done.

their absence might have been delicious, some | my disgust, by interfering with the hospial | the soldier, or the venom may have been taken. The officers succeeded in securing some stopped by the stocking or slipper from reach- faithful men, who, together with the old sol-

A FORMIDABLE GUARD.

I well remember the afternoon our good Surgeon came to the hospital tent and informed the three Hospital Stewards of the anticipated mutiny and robbery. It was agreed that upon the first symptoms or revolt, or upon hearing any firing, that we, with all who were faithful, should rally at the commanding officer's tent | at the stake, and criticises the conduct of Gen. and fight for our lives and the Government | Custer and his brave comrades who perished on property. The preparations for resisting the the Little Big Horn. outbreak were discovered, and the attempt was given up. Had the rascals, however, succeeded in their designs and carried off the wagon containing the safe, what would have been their dismay to find it quite empty of money, after | and his conduct in this engagement was such their efforts to break it open. The other wagon, containing the Paymaster's camp and baggage,

also contained the mess-chest in which the

"BILLY'S FORAGING."

had been disbanded and the money spent.

ponchos and blankets, and flat on our stomachs plains are something like the ocean, a Harrington was one of the number whose body we watched along the grass tops for any signs great wilderness with little to see ex- was so horribly mutilated as to render identiof approaching foes. Our orders were, if at- cept sky and grass, save here and there fication impossible. tacked, to retreat toward camp, giving the a spot of timber near some stream. Mon- The statement of Maj. Reno, that "when fire-arrows, we thought, arrows with burning ground, now and then floundering about as if in Maj. Reno knows the statement to be false; but pain. I was asked to ride out and examine him it is characteristic of the man who made it. tervals, and so the stealthily-approaching figures and report if he was wounded by bullets, ar- The real facts are that Custer and his men we supposed was the beginning of an unusual rows, or merely abandoned by some train as were completely surrounded in an open plain, the alarm. "Who goes there?" roared our horse to see if he was wounded or had broken states that Custer had confined Rain-in-the-bergeant. No reply; but still the figures his leg, or was merely sick and worn out. Just Face for the larceny of a piece of cloth; making stealthily approached. Once more the challenge as I bent forward to examine him he rolled it appear that he was confined for a trivial ing trough of an army wagon, while two troop- others mutilated in the same manner. ers chased Billy for miles before they could catch him. The horses furnished our cavalry at that

time were really fine animals, and some man. More than one tried to ride him, but met with ugly throws and great discourageanswer seemed to us. He left us after warning | sidered too vicious for use. At last an old solus that just at daybreak we would probably be | dier, who served through the war of the rebel- | FRED. S. SNOW, Deep River, Conn. attacked; but our wily foe had discovered our lion, said that he "would ride him or perish alertness and decided it would be best to let us | in the attempt." The permission was given,

and then began a struggle I have never seen equaled. A gallant horseman and a gallant but the soldier kept his seat. The horse at | NATIONAL TRIBUNE.] length, maddened and desperate, threw himself on the ground, and quickly rolling over, nearly killed his rider. The soldier was carried to the hospital tent and found to be completely ruined for further military service. He was discharged and pensioned. The horse was led to the line, but the fire was gone from his eye, and he walked with a conquered gait. After that anyone could ride him, and his handsome looks departed. He was indeed sub-



HARD MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

tance. The Spanish Peaks, always a day's about this matter, and they have, one and all. journey away, remained in sight for many | condemned it as an outrageous injustice. What days. As we entered New Mexico the mount- is the meaning of "equivalent"? "Equal in ains became a reality, and hard climbing and | value," the dictionary says. "Equal to about difficult roads were now of daily occurrence. On | four-fifths," Congress says. we marched, over the winding "Picket Wire," In conclusion I wish to say, in justice to through the wild Raton Pass, and then down | THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, that, in my opinion into the lovely scenery of grand old New | it stands on the right side of every question Mexico; past the Wagon Mound, famous for affecting the rights of the old soldiers upon the gallant fight of a handful emigrants, who | which it has expressed itself. Some things, here successfully

a host of savage Indians. The dark mud walls I wish you Godspeed. Our Paymaster had received at Fort Leaven- of Fort Union came at last into view, and we I have no doubt that your views are all right in

the last time our camp was pitched. On the | tion, by its laws, to make fish of one and flesh morrow we must separate. As the last notes of another of its defenders.-James Love, of the evening bugle echoed in the surround- | Sergeant, Co. E, 86th N. Y., 381 Pennsylvania ing hills, we realized that our train had reached avenue, Elmira, N. Y. its goal and that the morrow's sun would find us separating from each other for our new duties and stations. The expedition was at last a thing of the past-disbanded.

TAPS-"GOOD-NIGHT." "Old Pokeberry Nose."

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE; I have long been an interested reader of your very valu able paper, and my children like it as well as I GOING TO WATER.

do. We have enjoyed many a hearty laugh at thing of beauty may be a joy forever, but the Covernment to carry these funds across the expense of Old Pokeberry Nose. Say, Cap- C. I. Hood & Co., the enterprising proprietors the plains to the District Headquarters. The tain, send out and get him another plug of of Hood's Sarsaparilla, are quite content to Paymaster received the funds in a small iron black "terbacker," so as to loosen his tongue make a thing of beauty an annual affair. Their safe. Upon consultation with his clerk it was again. Long may it "wag."—L. O. Weeks, third Household Calendar is the thing of beau-

> A Queer Conversion. [Harrodsburg Democrat.]

large safe, and carefully locked up. The large safe was placed in the bottom of an army wagon from Harrodsburg, look so much alike that handsome young girl, with a wealth of brown and a special sentry always detailed to guard | when one of them joined the Baptist Church, | hair, contrasts beautifully with her blue bonit. The lawless, reckless characters amongst and was about to be immersed, he found that net and strings. The head is a marvel of color the recruits actually planned making a dis- he had no clothes suitable for the occasion, as printing, the flesh-tints being as natural as were the pranks played between tattoo and applause greeted his splendid efforts, and from taps, and sometimes even after taps.

This story seems incredible, but it is neverthetaps and brought his remains to camp as a trophy. This story seems incredible, but it is neverthetaps and brought his remains to camp as a trophy. This story seems incredible, but it is neverthetaps.

This story seems incredible, but it is neverthetaps and brought his remains to camp as a trophy. This story seems incredible, but it is neverthetaps.

The rattlesnake bite is not always so easily posed, a large sum of money. By good luck less the fact, and would never have been found information; indeed, it has so many points of lished by cared. In this case the snake may have and the weakening of one of the rascals, their out had not one of the brothers got angry and excellence that it must be seen to be apprecia-

THE YELLOWSTONE.

Harrington was Not Burned at the Stake, and Custer was No Coward.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: My attention having been called to an article published in the N. Y. Werld of Nov. 23 last, in which M. A. Reno, late Major, 7th U. S. Cav., expresses the opinion that Lieut. Henry M. Harrington, of Co. C. 7th Cav., was burned

I desire to say that the statements made by Maj. Reno are wholly and maliciously false. Reno was identified with the battle in which Custer and his brave comrades were slaughtered, as to warrant the charge of cowardice. Prior to the engagement Gen. Custer ordered

Maj. Reno, with Capt. Moylan, Capt. French and Lieut. McIntosh, with three companies, to attack the Indian village from above, and placed four companies, under command of Capt. Benteen, to guard the pack train, and to be sent to Reno in case he needed them. Maj. Reno crossed the river above the village,

but instead of obeying orders and charging upon the village, dismounted in a body of timber and awaited the approach of the Indians. He retreated across the river to the bluffs, and was shortly after reinferced by Capt. Benteen, who, with the noble assistance rendered by officers and men, succeeded in keeping the Indians in check until the arrival of Gen. Terry.

It was the cowardice of Maj. Reno throughout this engagement, for which he was courtmartialed. The leniency alone of his brother officers saved him from dismissal.

Maj. Reno says: " After the great battle I

and several other officers, looking through fieldglasses, saw Indians miles away engaged in the war dance about three captives who were tied at the stake, and my impression was that precions money had been hidden, unknown | Harrington was one of the unfortunate ones." and unguarded, and in a box which could have | For years I have lived among the Sionx Inbeen opened by a common chisel. This secret | dians, and personally know many who took part was well kept, and not even known by the in the Custer massacre; and from knowledge commanding officer. The Paymaster's clerk gained through them I can truly say Maj. related this to me months after the expedition | Reno did not see what he claims now to have seen. Not a single captive was taken from the As the train advanced over the prairies hun- field of battle. All were tortured to death on dreds of eyes scanned the horizon in every di- the battlefield, and not one was burned at the rection, and any unusual object at once arrest- stake. It was the general belief of the offied attention and stimulated curiosity. The cers who were in a position to know, that Lieut.

strous, lonely, dreary, it is so dull that the | we found the dead men, they lay in such a posileast thing like change is a treat. A train ap- | tion as to show that they had fled after the proaching from the opposite direction, a scout- | first attack and the Indians pursued them and ing party of soldiers, or a few emigrant wagons, shot them down, for in almost every instance will create all the excitement that a sail can on | they were shot in the back," would apply to the the ocean approaching one after days away brave men in his own command while upon from shore always brings. One day, far off on their retreat from the woods, for they obeyed the left of the train, a horse was discovered, ap- | the orders of Reno. But as to Gen. Custer and parently wounded, for he remained on the the noble officers and men who fell with him,

worthless. My good horse Billy soon brought and were outnumbered 10 to one. Is it to be me to the spot. I looked about for an instant to | wondered at that some were shot in the back? discover any signs of camp or battleground, In speaking of Tom Custer and the mutilaand then dismounting I walked up to the poor | tion of his remains by Rain-in-the-Face, Reno horse to see if he was wounded or had broken | states that Custer had confined Rain-in-theover, lifting his legs high in the air, thor- offense. Reno knows, that by order of Gen. oughly frightening my horse, who gave a Custer, Rain-in-the-Face was arrested at Standwild snort, and snatching the rein suddenly ing Rock for murder by Lieut. Tom Custer, from my grasp, galloped off at a wild rate over | and confined at Fort A. Lincoln; that he made the prairie. No call of mine would stop him, his escape from the guard-house with two soland it was a long, hard walk, past many a diers, and afterwards joined Sitting Bull; but deadly rattlesnake to reach the train, when I he does not know that Rain-in-the-Face muticlimbed in lonely humiliation upon the feed- lated Tom Custer's remains. There were many

Maj. Reno charges Custer with lack of courage. Gen. Custer's ambition was inordinate, as all who knew him will not deny; but his record as a brave officer has never before been were worthy to carry a prince. They came in | questioned, and I doubt if the malicious stategood condition, and I remember one, a large ments made by a man who, while an officer in iron-gray horse, the envy of many a cavalry- the army, was suspended for two years, tried for cowardice, and finally court-martialed, cashiered and dishonorably dismissed the service distance, was nearly as indistinct to him as his | ments. So many gave him up that he was con- | for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, will have any weight with the public .-

[NOTE.-Fred. S. Snow is known all over the Plains, from Texas to the Boundary, and from the Rockies to the Mississippi, as "Antelope Fred," and has been for fully 20 years a famous scout, saddled and bridled. The soldier mounted, packer and wagonmaster for the various military commanders on the frontier. During the war he was a gallant soldier in the Hawkins steed. It was exciting to witness the wild Zouaves (9th N. Y.) and the 5th Md., and is leaps and plunging and rearing of the steed, | now spending the Winter in the East.—Editor.

EQUIVALENT DISABILITY.

A New York Comrade Expresses His Views in Regard to Certain Features of Pension Legisla-

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I have watched the papers with much interest for an indication of a movement in the direction of doing justice to that class of pensioners who were "left out in the cold" by the act of Aug. 4, 1886, who were disabled by wounds to an extent "equivalent to the loss of a limb," but, unfortunately, wounded in some other part of the body; but I have thus far watched in vain. Neither the Pension Committee of the G.A.R. in its recommendations, the Commissioner of Pensions in his report, published in THE NA-TIONAL TRIBUNE some time ago, nor THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE itself, to which we have become accustomed to look for justice to the old soldiers, have even alluded to the matter. And I saw in the papers that Mr. Harmer, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill recently to increase certain pensions, in which this class of pensioners is again apparently studiously ignored. The paper parenthetically remarked that this bill was indorsed by the Maimed Soldiers' League and the G.A.R. Pension Committee, the self same influences that worked to leave us out in 1886. It is about time Congress discoveryed the fact that when soldiers went into battle they usually took some other parts of their anatomy along besides arms and legs, and those other parts were quite as liable to get injured as they were.

I have talked with scores of men, both old soldiers and civilians, including our present Representative in Congress, Hon. T. S. Flood

in particular, I would like to mention, but for want of space refrain. I will only say

called your attention, but what I wish is that

He Was Not Alone. [Omaha World.]

Captious Critic-"Oh, come now; you don't mean to say that is a picture of Gen. Biggun?" Photographer-"Taken from life." "Can't understand that. I've seen Gen. Biggun at the head of his troops many a time, and he always had a fire-eating, dare-devil expression which no one could forget; but that picture looks as meek as a lamb,"

" But, my dear sir, he wasn't at the head of

his troops when he sat for that picture.' "Well, I've seen him alone, too, and his expression was just the same. He was alone when he came here, I suppose." "No, not exactly; his wife was with him."

A Thing of Beauty.

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